Amendment

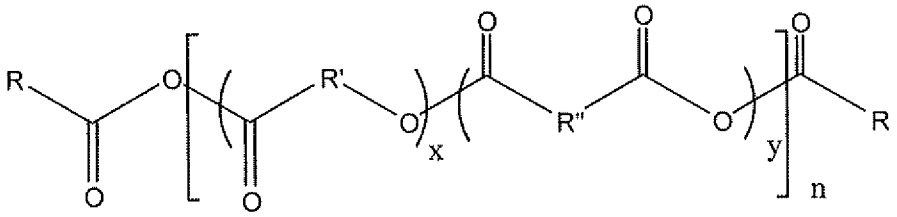
In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A drug delivery composition comprising a biodegradable, aliphatic poly(ester-anhydride) copolymer comprising random ester ~~or amide~~ bonds along the polymer chain and a biologically active agent.

2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of small drug molecules, peptides and proteins, DNA and DNA complexes with cationic molecules.

3. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form suitable for administration by injection.

4. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a poly(ester-anhydride) with the formula:



where R is a linear or branched aliphatic or aromatic moiety when x+y=1 and x is not 0, or R is an unsaturated fatty acid with at least one *cis*-double bond, or an ester of ricinoleic acid,

R' is a ricinoleic acid residue,

R'' is an aliphatic ~~or aromatic moiety~~, and

n is an integer from 1 to 200.

5. (original) The composition of claim 4, wherein R is a natural or synthetic fatty acid selected from the group consisting of: oleic acid, ricinoleic acid, and linolenic acid.

6. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein dicarboxylic acid ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of C_4 to C_{22} linear alkane dicarboxylic acids, dimer erucic acid, dimer oleic acid and non-linear fatty acid-ester derivatives of ricinoleic acid, fumarate or succinate and mixtures thereof.

7. (original) The composition of claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein the dicarboxylic acid is a derivative of oligomers or polymers of hydroxy acids.

8. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is prepared from purified ricinoleic acid, wherein ricinoleic acid comprises at least 90% by weight of the polymer.

9. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the biologically active agent is encapsulated in microparticles or nanoparticles.

10. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of the group consisting of antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and anticancer agents, antidepressants, analgesics and local anesthetics.

Claims 11-14. Canceled

15. (new) The composition of claim 4, wherein the poly(ester anhydride) copolymer comprises monomers derived from a dicarboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of dodecanedioic acid and sebacic acid and comonomers derived from ricinoleic acid, a derivative thereof, or an oligoester thereof.

16. (new) The composition of claim 15, wherein the polymer is terminated with a fatty acid selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, linoleic acid, and linolenic acid.

17. (new) A drug delivery composition comprising a biodegradable poly(ester-anhydride) copolymer comprising random ester bonds along the polymer chain and a biologically active agent, wherein the copolymer comprises monomers derived from ricinoleic acid and sebacic acid.

18. (new) The composition of claim 17, the polymer is a copolymer of sebacic acid and ricinoleic acid.

19. (new) The drug delivery composition of claim 18, wherein the ratio of monomers derived from ricinoleic acid to monomers derived from sebacic acid is 8:2 or 7:3.

20. (new) The composition of claim 17, wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of small drug molecules, peptides and proteins, DNA and DNA complexes with cationic molecules.

21. (new) The composition of claim 17, wherein the composition is in a form suitable for administration by injection.

22. (new) The composition of claim 17, wherein the polymer is prepared from purified ricinoleic acid, wherein ricinoleic acid comprises at least 90% by weight of the polymer.

23. (new) The composition of claim 17, wherein the biologically active agent is encapsulated in microparticles or nanoparticles.

24. (new) The composition of claim 20, wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of the group consisting of antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and anticancer agents, antidepressants, analgesics and local anesthetics.